

THE EUGENICS REVIEW

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Penrose, L. S. *On the Objective Study of Crowd Behaviour.* London, 1952. H. K. Lewis. Pp. vi + 74. Price 10s.

THIS very short book of seventy-four pages is difficult to classify because it is quite unlike any other that the reviewer has ever come across. It deals with such topics as the effects of the size of the group on voting; an analogy between mental and physical epidemiology; an analysis of crazes; outbreaks of religious enthusiasm; panic reactions; war; and the transmission of ideas. There is little to link these topics together. Some of the chapters contain mathematical analyses, some contain descriptions and observations. It is perhaps inevitable in the present stage of development of this field of study that there is almost no integration between the empirical observation and the mathematical deduction. This difficulty has appeared previously in the work of other authors whom Penrose quotes. In the absence of reliable empirical data against which to evaluate statistical speculation, books of this type have their value in suggesting hypotheses and methods of treatment, but they can do no more. Most people interested in such speculation will welcome this new book as an interesting addition to the small number of publications in this field.

H. J. EYSENCK.

Stubbs, S. G. Blaxland. *From Magic to Modern Medicine.* London, 1952. Watts. Pp. 94. Price 1s.

THIS is No. 14 of the Thrift Books which are published by C. A. Watts & Co. Ltd., as a companion series to the Thinker's Library, and which cover a wide variety of subjects. *From Magic to*

Modern Medicine, true to its title, starts with a short description of Neolithic trephined skulls and concludes with a few paragraphs on viruses, hormones and radiation, passing by way of Babylon, the temples of Asklepois, the Dark Ages, Roger Bacon, Harvey, Lister and indeed every important milestone in Man's journey from the hazards of Stone Age surgery to the discovery of the sulphonamides.

Considering that this vast field is concentrated into 94 pages, the book gives a surprisingly comprehensive panorama of the subject and is a sound introduction to the study of the history of medicine.

K. H.

Tinbergen, N. *The Study of Instinct.* Oxford, 1951. Clarendon Press. Pp. xii + 228. Price 25s.

THE author of this study is a Lecturer in Animal Behaviour at the University of Oxford and the book is an extension of a series of lectures delivered in New York in February 1947 under the auspices of the American Museum of Natural History and Columbia University. In his preface he explains that the book has a dual purpose—it is intended to introduce European research, most of which has been published in the German language, to Anglo-American workers and to attempt to organize into a coherent whole those ethological problems which underlie innate behaviour.

The study is based on observations of instinctive reflexes in mammals, birds, fish and insects and in the final half-dozen pages these activities are related to human behaviour.

The book is copiously illustrated and well indexed, and there is an extensive bibliography of some 250 titles.

K. H.

PERIODICALS

American Journal of Human Genetics
September 1951, Vol. 3, No. 3.—*A New Syndrome Combining Developmental Anomalies of the Eyelids, Eyebrows and Nose Root with Pigmentary Defects of the Iris and Head Hair and with Congenital Deafness.*—By P. J. Waardenburg.—The author has isolated a new syndrome of associated developmental abnormalities. The syndrome comprises—an

increased distance between the inner angles of the eyelids without any increase in the interpupillary distance or that between the outer angles of the eyelids, a prominent broad root of the nose, junction of the eyebrows over the root of the nose, a white lock of hair, heterochromia of the iris and a variable degree of congenital deafness. Thirteen examples of the condition were found among 840

inmates of institutions for the deaf in Holland, an incidence of 1.43 per cent.

Family studies, excellently done, showed that the condition is due to a dominant gene with varying manifestation. The most serious complication, the deafness, is one of the least frequent with a manifestation rate of about 1 in 5. The increased distance between the inner angles of the eyelids was present in nearly every case. The manifestation of the gene varied somewhat between families. It is interesting that in one family three sibs were affected, but neither parent; this suggests a somatic mutation, though minor manifestations in earlier generations could not be excluded.

The frequency of the syndrome when it includes deafness is estimated to be about 1 in 200, which would give a frequency of all forms of the syndrome of about 1 in 40,000. The mutation rate would appear to be about 1 in 270,000.

Waardenburg notes that in dogs and cats heterochromia of the iris may be associated with deafness.

Some Statistical Problems Posed by Waardenburg's Data on Dystopia Canthorum and Associated Anomalies.—By C. W. Cotterman.—The author develops a discriminant function, relating the distance between the inner angles of the eyelids to the interpupillary distance and the distance between the outer angles of the eyelids; this function has the advantage of being independent of the patient's age. This gives a sharp discrimination between the affected and the unaffected members of these families. There is no relation between the value of the function and the presence of the other features of the syndrome.

A Genetic and Statistical Study of Psoriasis.—By S. W. Becker, T. B. Fitzpatrick, P. R. Kierland.—This study is based on information supplied by 404 consecutive patients attending dermatology clinics; their relations were not examined personally. The frequency of psoriasis among the sibs of the patients, when neither parent was affected, was 2.45 per cent; when one parent was affected it was 9.00 per cent. In no instance were both parents psoriatic. The frequency of psoriasis among the patients' parents was 5.9 per cent. The hypothesis that psoriasis is due to a dominant gene of incomplete penetrance is shown to be unsatisfactory in view of the greater incidence of psoriasis among the sibs when one parent was affected.

Hyperuricæmia was found in seventy-five of the 167 patients tested, but eight parents all had blood levels of uric acid within the normal range.

A Colour Vision Anomaly showing Holandrie (Y-linked) Transmission.—By S. C. Reed, R. K. Cambier and J. E. Appen.—This family adds one more to the few examples of characters probably determined by genes on the Y-chromosome. All reported instances of colour-blindness have

shown X-linked inheritance. In this family all five sons and all five sons' sons of the original cases are affected.

C. O. C.

International Journal of Sexology

February 1952, Vol. 5, No. 3.—*Is Jealousy Controllable?*—By Ewald Bohm.—Ewald Bohm defines jealousy as "a feeling of displeasure associated with a strong tendency to discharge, which expresses itself either through suspicion of an imminent loss of the love-object, or through a reaction of displeasure over an erotic union which the love-object in fact has with someone else," thus narrowing it down from the broader meaning of "every and any form of sexual envy." He goes on to point out that it is not a pure feeling of displeasure but that other components enter into it.

Dr. Bohm studies in detail the field work of Gottschalk, who investigated the problem of jealousy by interview with fifty-two "normal average persons." This survey enables Bohm to consider further the possibility of control of jealousy. He analyses the feeling into the following components: 1, An aggressive reaction to the injury of rivalry-feeling (this is the "normal" instinctive reaction, but other equally strong instinctive actions can be controlled); 2, A shock of sexual displeasure caused by an affront to the possessory attitude to the love-object (this attitude Bohm associates with anality); and, 3, An injury to self-love (a narcissistic component) which leads to a striving to keep possession which in turn stems from a feeling of inferiority.

From the viewpoint of psychological development jealousy contains a good portion of infantilism because of the last two components enumerated above. This leads to a discharge of energy unadapted to reality, like a fit of rage and childish defiance.

It is clear that the behaviour of a jealous person is not rational: it will neither separate the spouse from the third party, nor will it bring the original pair together again if they have ceased to love one another. Furthermore the chronically jealous person runs the risk of losing his partner just because of the constant jealous supervision.

It is suggested that prudence would allow a partner freedom of action in sexual affairs which in a given instance can lead to one of three possibilities: (a) the third party displaces the spouse; (b) the third party remains a secondary phenomenon, or (c) the third party makes up a triumvirate of reciprocal love as André Maurois has shown in his novel *Love, terra incognita*.

Therefore the means of controlling jealousy are by an education that would gradually change the social factors involved at community level, and at a personal level would avoid anal or narcissistic fixations. This would lead to a positive and tolerant attitude to love-life and an adaptation to reality.

D. ROBERTSON-RITCHIE.

FROM THE PRESS CUTTINGS

Birth Control and W.H.O.

Roman Catholic delegates have threatened to withdraw from the World Health Organization if birth control is advocated to solve over-population.

On May 15th, Dr. Karl Evang of Norway put forward a resolution calling for an expert committee to study the health aspects of the population problem. He said there would be disastrous consequences if births continued to outstrip food production. Mention of birth control brought protests from Roman Catholic members from Belgium, France, Spain, Italy and Ireland, whose delegate, Dr. J. D. MacCormack, said that action in this direction by the W.H.O. would lead immediately to the resignation of a large number of States.¹

Population of France

A report on the French population trends during 1951 assesses the French population on January 1st, 1952, at about 42,400,000, compared with 40,150,000 in 1946. The report brings out that there was a sharp drop in the birth rate during 1951. The first sign of the reversal of the high birth rate trend which had prevailed since 1946 appeared in 1950, when there were 10,500 fewer births than in 1949. Between 1950 and 1951 the drop was 35,000.²

¹ *Daily Express*, May 16th.

² *The Times*, May 5th, 1952.

GENETICS AND DISEASE

by

TAGE KEMP, M.D.

*Professor of Human Genetics, University of Copenhagen
Director of the Institute for Human Genetics, Copenhagen*

Professor Kemp has produced a book on Genetics and Disease that is thoroughly scientific, and that at the same time will be completely comprehended by both the doctor and the biologist. After a lucid summary of the Mechanism of Heredity, he deals adequately, but non-mathematically, with the peculiar difficulties of studies on human pedigree data. Then follows an account of Normal Hereditary Factors in man, including a notable chapter on the Blood Groups. Hereditary Diseases next come under review, and are considered from both the clinical and the genetic aspects. This section is enriched by a large number of excellent photographs. Finally comes a section on Genetic Hygiene, which discusses practical applications for the individual about to marry (as well as for his medical adviser) and as matters of public policy. The book embodies the results of many large-scale investigations carried out in the Institute of which Professor Kemp is Director, and of the author's own reflections, based on his unrivalled knowledge and experience of human genetic problems.

9½ in. × 6½ in. 330 pages

100 illustrations 27 tables

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